(b) whether efforts were also made during Prime Minister's visit to Europe, early last month, for extradition of the underworld fugitive wanted in India for criminal charges; and

(c) what other attempts have been made at the diplomatic front in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No. The Indian Mission in Lisbon extended all possible cooperation to the visiting CBI team.

(b) No.

(c) The Government of India has made strong diplomatic demarches with the Government of Portugal.

Exchanging crucial Information with USA

963. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US are exchanging crucial information on North Korea and Pakistan as a part of a bilateral cooperation on global issues;

(b) whether involvement of Pakistan with North Korea and Iraq and its role in international terrorism and nuclear/missile proliferation are now more evident than ever before; and

(c) if so, government's views in this regard and our relations with US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) India and the United States exchange views on all international issues of mutual interest, including on

recent reports of nuclear weapons-related links between Pakistan and North Korea.

(b) Pakistan's in involvement with international terrorism and nuclear and missile proliferation is well known to the international community.

(c) Government has consistently drawn the attention of the international community to Pakistan's track record in these areas.

During their meeting on 12 September 2002 in New York, Prime Minister and U.S. President George Bush reaffirmed their commitment to continue the process of qualitatively transforming India-U.S., relations and emphasised, in this context, the deepening of the bilateral dialogue and the strengthening of the new strategic framework of relations. The two Governments have a shared commitment to combat terrorism and prevent proliferation of strategic goods and technology.

Foreign Minister's Dhaka Visit

964. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the SAARC Minister's meeting in Kathmandu he visited Dhaka (Bangladesh);

(b) if so, the issues discussed for cementing ties with Bangladesh and the agreements reached as a result thereof, especially those for improving trade ties, and rail and road transport between the two countries;

(c) whether both the countries have also decided to reactivate all the Committees and task forces including Joint working Group to give a boost to bilateral relations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs visited Bangladesh on 24-25 August 2002.

(b) The visit was part of the ongoing high level interaction between India and Bangladesh and aimed at promoting and further enhancing our bilateral relations. The discussions covered various issues such as lifting